

Political Science *Alumni Newsletter*

From the Department Chair . . .

Greetings Alumni!

We are very happy to bring you this newly designed newsletter just after what we hope was a very festive holiday season! As we close out 2008 we would like to take a moment to review what has been yet another eventful year for our Political Science Department! We have added two new professors who join our growing ranks! This makes nine new faculty that we have hired since 2005!



This year we welcomed Dr. Elif Erisen (Ph.D. SUNY Stony Brook) who will teach courses in economic policy, education policy, and research methods for both the graduate and undergraduate programs. We also hired Dr. Shelley Hurt (Ph.D. New School for Social Research, New York) who will arrive in time for fall quarter 2009, after she has completed her postdoctoral research at Dartmouth. These new faculty join Drs. Arceneaux, Den Hartog, Den Otter, Latner, Leithner, Lowham, Moore, Settle, Williams, Zhang, and me as full-time faculty. We were also happy to have lecturers Drs. Evans and Keleher to teach courses for us this year. And, Dr. Richard Kranzdorf, professor emeritus returned to the classroom to provide instruction in international relations. Dr. Dianne Long retired from our department last year after a long career at Cal Poly as professor and chair - she will remain part-

time to teach a few courses for us as part of the Faculty Early Retirement Program.

We are excited to report that we have been able to continue to add new courses to the undergraduate and graduate programs as our new faculty have arrived with new interests and diverse talents! These include new courses in political ecology, economic policy, education policy, conservative political thought, ancient and medieval political thought, collective violence and conflict resolution, and many others!

Our political science B.A. program and our Master of Public Policy program continue to attract top-notch students, whose futures may well hold positions of great responsibility and leadership. We are proud to have the opportunity to be their professors and to watch them grow into the leaders of tomorrow!

As we look forward to 2009, we do so with hope that the New Year will continue to bring new opportunities to fulfill our role as a department that prepares talented learners for rewarding careers and instills a life-long love of learning!

Our very best wishes from the Political Science faculty, staff, and students!

Linda Shepherd
Associate Professor and Chair

We need your email address!

In the future, we would like to send the department newsletter as an e-newsletter. If you would like to receive the letter via email, please send your current email address to politicalscience@calpoly.edu.

From the Alumni Advisory Board . . .

Peter Fedewa (POLS 2004)

Prior to attending Cal Poly, I worked as a programmer and software developer at AIM Systems Inc. (now Retail Anywhere Inc.) in San Luis Obispo. During my two and a half years at AIM Systems, I began attending Cal Poly. It was at this time that I shifted my focus to political science due to shifts in the economy and a growing distaste for the software industry as well as a longtime interest in public policy and international affairs. I quickly found that the same type of analytical and critical thinking used in the programming field translated perfectly to (and were enhanced by) Cal Poly's brand of applied political science.

Upon graduation, I secured a job in fund-raising with Project Angel Food (a meal delivery service for people with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses) in Los Angeles. In non-profit fund raising I found the perfect marriage of the skills I had learned as a programmer and the analytical and critical thinking skills I had learned at Cal Poly.

Despite only being at Project Angel Food for a short amount of time, I sought to find a position where I would not only use my general political science skills but where I would have a chance to explore my international affairs focus. This led me to Ploughshares Fund (a public foundation focused on the elimination of nuclear weapons) where I now work as a development coordinator specializing in direct mail and donor data analysis.

I serve on the Political Science Alumni Board because I truly think that the Cal Poly Poli Sci Department provides a special and unique look at the political science discipline that goes beyond average academia in preparing its graduates for a multitude of careers, and I believe the department and its students should be recognized for that achievement.

Jose C. Henriquez (POLS 1993)

Since November 2005, I've been serving as the executive officer for the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a state-mandated independent local agency responsible for regulating city and special district boundaries, establishing spheres of influence for those agencies, and preparing municipal service reviews. My most important functions are to be the primary advisor for a seven-member board comprised of elected officials and to supervise their staff of three. I've been credited with rebuilding LAFCO's image within the county and fostering open and collaborative relationships with fellow agencies and the public. In 2007 I was nominated for the California Association of

LAFCO's "Outstanding LAFCO Professional" Award.

I graduated from Cal Poly in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and also hold a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from Sacramento State University. My post-college career includes participating in the prestigious Jesse Marvin Unruh California State Assembly Fellowship Program, having successful project management careers in the health care and telecommunications industries and working as the policy analyst for the Yolo County LAFCO. In addition, I am also an adjunct professor at Sacramento City College, teaching a course titled, "Introduction to Public Administration."

I live in Folsom, California, with my wife, three cats and two dogs. My hobbies include building models, photography, hiking, reading, surfing the Web, spending time with friends and family and discussing politics. My addictions include "Star Trek," "Mazinger Z" (look it up), "Babylon 5," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," and "Battlestar Galactica." Besides the Advisory Board, I volunteer my time to the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project and to the El Dorado Court Appointed Special Advocates.

I credit the education I received at Cal Poly for the ease in which I get down to the "nuts and bolts" of projects. In particular, I think my political science degree helped me learn how to work across various policy areas and with agencies across three levels of government: local, state and federal. At any point in time, you can find me working on a project that is completely unrelated to what I worked on a few months earlier. Just within the six years of my LAFCO career I have worked on issues related to water, agriculture, housing, land use, parks and recreation and fire suppression.

I look forward to meeting with current students, staff and faculty, and alumni to explore how to promote the growth of the solid Political Science program. If students have any questions or comments, they are welcome to contact me at j_henriquez@comcast.net.

Austin O'Dell (POLS 1988)

Co-Chair, Alumni Advisory Board

I am fortunate enough to serve on the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. The purpose of this board is to assist political science students to achieve their career goals and to assist faculty to achieve their academic goals to benefit the students. As this board develops, I look forward to assisting the Political Science Department.

After graduating from Cal Poly in 1988, I continued my post-graduate education in the Master of Public Administration program at CSU Hayward. While

earning my master's degree, I was fortunate to find an internship at a public transit agency in the San Francisco Bay Area. I worked my way up the ranks from an analyst to a transit manager in a relatively short time. Looking back, I never would have thought my favorite ride as a boy (the monorail at Disneyland) would seal my fate for my career.

Professionally, I owe the success in my career to my degree from Cal Poly's Political Science Department. My career requires me to interact with local, state, and federal public officials (as well as elected leadership), and work with advanced public, financial, grant writing, legislation, and other interesting elements. All this just provides a service on the street. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the California Transit Association Board and the United Cerebral Palsy. My message to you is simple: the education from your political science degree will give you the tools and skills to succeed.

After graduating with my Master's, I lived in Tracy, California, with my wife, Michele, and our three dogs. In 2000, I accepted a job for the City of Santa Maria as the Transit Manager. Michele and I now live in Pismo Beach. We enjoy running, bicycling, outrigger canoeing, and wine tasting. My favorite band is U2.

Bryan S. Corcoran (POLS 1982)

Hello everyone! I graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Political Science in 1982.

Shortly after graduation, I began working as a sales representative for Procter & Gamble in metro Los Angeles. Twenty-six years later, I continue to work for P&G as a sales manager for the U.S. Duracell battery business out of our corporate headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. Over the 26 years, I have had varied responsibilities in sales, sales management, and supply chain management across many of the different P&G businesses.

My wife Lisa (Agriculture Business Management 1982) and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at Cal Poly and we try to get back to the Central Coast as often as possible. We often think about the terrific education we received while in school in San Luis Obispo.

During my time at Cal Poly, I was very involved in student activities. I served as the general superintendent of the 50th Anniversary Poly Royal in 1982—that was truly a great experience! I was also very involved in my Fraternity (Phi Kappa Psi).

I am really excited about being a member of the alumni advisory board for the Political Science Department. The board's membership consists of POLS alumni in the public and private sectors – a

group with very diverse backgrounds and experiences. Our objective is to support the department through mentoring students, supporting faculty projects and development, and to assist the department chair in many other activities that support the vision and objectives of the students, faculty, and department in general.

Marcia Godwin (POLS 1986)

Since joining the alumni advisory board last year, it's been great to be able to visit Cal Poly twice a year. I'm looking forward to re-connecting with more alums as co-chair of the Alumni Networking Committee. I also want to put in a special request to watch for our upcoming alumni survey.

Since our last newsletter, I accepted an assistant professor position at the University of La Verne, where I've been teaching part-time for several years. It is very rewarding to teach government professionals and assist Cal-ICMA's Preparing the Next Generation Committee with its efforts to promote local government careers. At La Verne, I'm hoping to occasionally moonlight teaching American politics and am finishing up a book chapter on a 2008 congressional race. I've also been the interim/temporary/forever music coordinator and pianist at my church, which is something I never thought I'd do – "learn by doing" never gets out of your system! Equally surprising has been recruiting and cross-training a genuine concert pianist to play in our eclectic church band, which may free up some time for leisure activities. If you're ever in Rancho Cucamonga, please call or e-mail!

Tim Humphreys (POLS 1972)

I graduated from Cal Poly in 1972 with a BA in Political Science and a concentration in Administration. I graduated just as Proposition 13 forced dramatic cuts in local government budgets. Fortunately, through a family contact, I landed a job helping to run a successful re-election campaign for our local state senator. Following the campaign I took time out to have some knee surgery and my career path was changed forever! During my recovery from surgery I shared a room with the manager of systems and programming for Crocker Bank. When he found out that I had a course in COBOL in college he offered me a job as an applications programmer trainee and I was off and running. My career as a programmer took me from Crocker Bank through Stanford University to my own consulting firm incorporated in 1978. Since that time I have built Trident Services into a nationally recognized operating systems software development and services firm. As an IBM Business Partner, we

currently provide software and support services to major clients in both the government and private sectors. My background in political science has been invaluable to me in building the client relationships so necessary in the business world. It has also helped me to understand the complexities involved in the use of information technology in meeting the demands of our local, state and federal government clients.

On a personal note, I live in Capitola, California, with my wife and four children ages 13, 16, 22 and 32. In my spare time, I enjoy my annual salmon fishing trip to Alaska; driving around in my BMW M5; and most of all, my work with the Cal Poly Political Science Alumni Advisory Board.

Faculty Professional Activities . . .

Faculty Research and Activities Highlights . . .

Craig Arceneaux, Associate Professor

The 2008-09 academic year has brought another year of exciting developments in the Political Science Department. With the addition of Shelley Hurt to our faculty to teach courses on international political economy and international organizations; we now have a solid core of professors for our Comparative Politics and International Relations curriculum. For my part, I continue to teach courses on Latin American politics and comparative politics more generally.

I have a couple of research projects. One is a textbook on Latin American political institutions. The presidential systems we find in the region appear so similar to US institutions on the surface. But in reality, they work very differently. Different electoral systems produce a great number of parties – and thus a completely different political dynamic, underfunded or otherwise enfeebled legislatures undermine the check that this institution would otherwise place on presidential power, court systems influenced by the jurisprudence of the Napoleonic era behave in their own way, and so on. To me, the region makes an ideal case study of the possible varieties of institutional arrangement and how one change can produce completely different politics. Institutions are like genetic codes – one minor variation can create a completely different animal (remember-chimpanzees are 98 percent human...or are we 98 percent chimpanzee??).

Many of these institutional distinctions are well known and studied in academic journals and among scholars of Latin American politics. But surprisingly, the

textbooks on Latin American politics that make it into our university classrooms gloss over these interesting facts. I assume this is because the region is so rich in history that must be addressed, and authors feel compelled to focus on a few case studies to give students a more in-depth portrait. Hence for reasons of economy, intriguing questions of comparative institutional design are more often left unaddressed. Most authors settle for uncomplicated, but ultimately inaccurate, comparisons with the US system. My reaction is not to reinvent the wheel. Many of the existing texts are very good and need to delve into history and individual case studies. My proposal then is to write a supplementary textbook, one no longer than 140-160 pages. As my past students are well aware, that's the equivalent of just over one week of reading, right?

My second research project takes me into a new area of study and involves a terrific opportunity for collaboration with fellow faculty member, Ning Zhang. As students of comparative politics, we are keen on examining different regions to learn more about politics. Likewise, we also recognized that our research interests in faraway countries required us to be creative in our search for and use of research funds and travel opportunities. One day, while sharing some thoughts on how governments use culture and history to promote their own legitimacy, we came upon an intriguing research questions on cultural tourism. (Yes, all of your stereotypes are correct. Even in our spare time we embrace the abstract, the prosaic, and the hypothetical. We simply find it thrilling). Namely, although cultural tourism can be a boon to the economy, it also raises new conflicts over how cultural identities should be represented and how these new economic resources should be distributed. This is especially a problem when the locus of cultural tourism is far from the capital. Ning and I saw these exact clashes developing (in different ways) in Cusco, Peru, and in Xi'an, China.



Fortunately for us, we were able to take advantage of already existing Cal Poly programs to initiate our research. I have participated in the Peru Study Abroad program for two years now, and with support from Cal Poly's Latin American Studies Program, Ning was able to take the trip with me in summer 2008. And, through a pleasant coincidence, it also turned out that the National Model United Nations had decided to hold its first International Model UN in Xi'an, China. Ning and I both traveled there in November 2008 as co-advisors to four students participating in the conference. At both locations, we were able to discuss and further develop our research program.



Our timing in Peru was perfect for the study of cultural tourism because of the Inti Raymi festival and parades (this occasion celebrates the winter solstice (other side of the equator!) and dates back to Incan times). In China, I was awestruck by both the depth of a history represented by famed Terra Cotta statues of Xi'an as well as the abundant and glaring economic growth taking place. Huge construction cranes rose from the ground from every direction. How China deals with rising economic expectations and moves for political reform will be a topic of international interest. Cultural tourism will not determine China's future, but it will provide some insight into how the country works its way through these pressing issues.

I think Ning and I both enjoyed bringing the other to our own turf, and seeing our dependencies switch. I know that taxi rides and restaurants would have been impossible for me in China without Ning, and I'm sure Ning had the same experience in Peru. I plan to present our comparative work on cultural tourism at the Latin American Studies Association conference this June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After the conference, I am going

to meet back up with the Peru Study Abroad program to give a guest lecture and conduct a few interviews with tourism officials. By the end of the year, Ning and I hope to have a publishable paper; one that will undoubtedly take academia by storm and initiate paradigm shifts in the minds of scholars worldwide.

Ning Zhang, Assistant Professor

This past year has been an exciting and fruitful year for me. I have taught a few courses on international relations and East Asian politics and really enjoyed the experience. I have also learned a lot about our students, how to make the classes more interesting to them, how to make the instruction more effective, and so forth.

In early 2008, I joined a research project that proposes to build a sustainable community on the Chongming Island, Shanghai, China. So far, this project has grown into a collaborative project among Cal Poly, Stanford University, Yale University, MIT, and Tongji University in Shanghai. In June 2008, our colleagues at Tongji came to Stanford University for a workshop to set the foundation and make plans for fund raising. In September, I went to Shanghai to work with our colleagues there, especially with the vice president of Tongji, Dr. Zhao Jianfu, to set up a social sciences research base in Chongming. The project is currently funded by the National Science Foundation while we wait for additional funding from the same institution. We will kick off the project with a conference and a cultural immersion workshop in Shanghai in late August 2009.

In July, I joined the Cal Poly Peru Study program as a research faculty to prepare for a project on cultural tourism in collaboration with Dr. Arceneaux. During my stay at Cuzco, I also conducted a small survey to study how our students gradually opened themselves up to a different culture and value system. I further developed this survey for the participants of the Model United Nations conference in Xi'an China in November 2008. Dr. Arceneaux, four students, and I attended the Model United Nations conference in Xi'an, which is my hometown. It was great fun for me to show my colleague and students around in Beijing and my hometown. We went to the historic sites of the Forbidden City, the Terra Cotta warriors, and Tiananmen Square as well as such new, exciting places as the Bird Nest and the Water Cube. During the trip, the students learned about Chinese culture and society firsthand, and enjoyed fun experiences like haggling with street vendors at a lively night market. The trip ended with a dumpling dinner at my parents' house in Xi'an.



Anika Leithner, Assistant Professor

In my current project I am trying to shed light on the impact George W. Bush's rhetoric during the war on terrorism may have had on US-European relations. It's a fact that the relationship between the United States and many of the European countries has suffered since 2001. Approval ratings of the U.S. have gone from 70-80 percent in many countries to 30-40 percent even among allies such as Germany and Great Britain. However, I cannot help but disagree with the general explanations scholars give for this phenomenon. I keep reading that the main reasons Europeans are so against the war on terror is because they are less inclined to use military force to solve international problems. That's not entirely true! Europeans were perfectly fine with the military intervention in Afghanistan, but not the one in Iraq. Why?

In my research, I hypothesized that it was not necessarily the policy itself that turned Europeans against the United States, but rather the way the policy was "sold" (or not sold, in this case). In the end, foreign policies do not speak for themselves. Situations and facts can be interpreted differently; solutions can be presented in different ways. I had noticed that between the intervention in Afghanistan and the one in Iraq, the Bush administration's rhetoric about the war on terror changed dramatically. In a formal discourse analysis of U.S. foreign policy rhetoric between 2001 and 2006, my research assistant Brandon Rolle and I found that overall, the administration's rhetoric became much more "exclusionary" where before it had been "inclusive." In other words, between 2001 and 2002, Bush did a fairly good job of verbally including the European Union in the in-group, making Europeans feel as though they were valued members of the alliance against terrorism. This changed in late 2002

and early 2003, when suddenly, the administration was much more careless in the way it addressed European audiences. Ultimatums such as "you're with us or against us" and comments about "old Europe" raised resistance among many Europeans, who ultimately were less inclined to even consider any policies proposed.

In addition to a discourse analysis, we conducted an experiment with approximately 200 undergraduates at Cal Poly. Students were divided into two groups and were asked to read a fictitious foreign policy scenario, a fictitious speech by a foreign policy leader, and a series of questionnaires about their perceptions of the speech, the speaker, and finally their willingness to support various policy proposals for the given scenario. Both groups of students received exactly the same information with one major difference: one group read an "inclusive" speech that was designed to appeal to the goodwill and loyalty of audiences, whereas the other group read an "exclusionary" speech that was much harsher and contained ultimatums and phrases modeled after the Bush administration's rhetoric. Our findings show that the first group was significantly more likely to support even extreme policies such as military action than the second group. Granted, such a lab experiment is limited in its real-world applications, but the results indicate a strong relationship between foreign policy rhetoric and the willingness of audiences to support those policies. In the future, we hope to further explore these ideas in a real-world context.

From our other faculty . . .

Chris Den Hartog, Assistant Professor

I am working, along with co-author Nathan Monroe of UC Merced, on a book about policy making in the US Senate. In particular, we're studying ways in which senate parties and procedures interact to shape the chamber's decisions—and, by extension, affect which groups are more (or less) likely to benefit from policies adopted via the legislative process. We plan to complete the manuscript by the spring of 2009.

Ron Den Otter, Assistant Professor

I am teaching most of the public law courses and have just finished a book titled "*Judicial Review in an Age of Moral Pluralism*." I continue to serve as the department's pre-law advisor, the faculty advisor for the Undergraduate Law Association, and the coordinator for pre-law internships.

Elif Erisen, Assistant Professor

I've just started teaching at Cal Poly this quarter after earning my Ph.D. degree from Stony Brook University. I had a very enjoyable start with my academic career in beautiful San Luis Obispo. I was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. I earned BA's in Political Science and International Relations and in Management from Bosphorus University. After an internship at the Council of Europe, I decided to head to the London School of Economics for an MSc in International Political Economy. My interests in political economy and policy shaped my dissertation research at Stony Brook. I worked on a National Science Foundation funded research project on school vouchers and evaluated the Chilean universal school choice system in my dissertation.

I am teaching political analysis and public policy this quarter, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to teach special courses in the MPP program. I will be teaching economic and regulatory policy and education policy. I am looking forward to sharing my research interests in these fields with our MPP students to enrich their graduate study experience. I am currently working on several papers from my dissertation on school vouchers and preparing a research project on Chilean private voucher schools. My goal is to extend my study of school choice in Chile and the US to other international cases, and build the comparative feature of my political economy and policy interests into my courses. I am looking forward to an exciting career at Cal Poly. I love the weather and the nature here. I have started exploring the nearby hills and creeks. I'll definitely take advantage of the endless opportunities for hiking.

Richard Kranzdorf, Professor Emeritus

I started teaching in the Poli Sci Department at Cal Poly in 1971 and likely will have finished by the end of winter of 2009. I say "likely" because I am open to returning if the opportunity permits. It was a great 37 years. The boy from New York City found nirvana in San Luis Obispo.

What's up next? Beyond saying that the end of one chapter will precede the beginning of another, I'm not sure. Travel and political activism will surely be included.

Mike Latner, Assistant Professor

This year has been extremely productive in teaching and research. Over the summer, my Introduction to American and California government course was revised to include individual and group data analysis of American political culture and constitutional performance using

data from the World Values Survey. This Spring I'll also be teaching a new course, political ecology, which explores "green" politics and the application of ecological principles to political organization and analysis. Last fall I completed revisions to my article "The Calculus of Consensual Democracy: Rethinking Patterns of Democracy Without Veto Players" which has been submitted to the Journal of Politics. Finally, I'm working with an undergraduate research assistant on a long-term project to estimate the evolution of party competition in California if the state were to implement a more proportional electoral system.

Dianne Long, Professor

I will be teaching in winter and spring terms beginning 2009. I've been working with Engineering faculty on a design lab sequence of courses that resulted in leading a student group to Malawi, Africa. The focus of the field trip was centered on testing an irrigation pump that is operated with a bicycle.

New opportunities to work with students on development projects continue to evolve. Best wishes to all Cal Poly alum and friends.

Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor

This year finds me teaching largely in the graduate program, focusing on research design and quantitative methodology. I will also have the pleasure of presenting at four conferences throughout the year on topics ranging from the Los Osos Valley Wastewater Project to brownfields to teaching methodology. This was also the first year the department was able to support graduate student travel to a research conference – we're hoping that next year we will have students submit and present their own research at these conferences.

Matthew J. Moore, Assistant Professor

I've been very busy with research this year.

During the spring I had two articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. During the summer and fall I've been conducting a survey of political theorists across the country. With the help of a lot of student assistants and volunteers, I sent invitations to more than 5,000 people in October. I have nearly 1,100 completed surveys, and will be presenting the results at two professional conferences in 2009.

Finally, if I can find some time, I have two other articles to revise and send to journals (probably next summer).

Allen Settle, Professor

The fall 2008 quarter has been one of the most eventful I have experienced in many years. The presidential election is one event we all expected, but not the banking credit crisis on Wall Street. Then came the failure of regulatory agencies to catch the scandals, such as Bernard Madoff 50 billion dollar investment fraud not seen by the Security Exchange Commission or credit default swaps and securitization of mortgage loans that severely damaged most major banks. There is much to explain and discuss in class about the job market, especially to those graduating students. Recovery will come, but no one knows when or how our society will be change because of these events. I continue to teach American government, American constitutional law and urban affairs, all of which are impacted by these above events. The city of San Luis Obispo is short some \$10 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and will be short the same amount for the following three years. As the vice-mayor, one of my jobs is to determine ways to balance the city budget. This is made more difficult because the California state budget is over \$15 billion out of balance, and the governor, as of this writing, announced his veto of the latest attempt to balance state finance. We all live in interesting times, and my wish for all of you is to be prepared, informed and get as much education as you can afford, because you all will earn what you learn.

Jean Williams, Associate Professor

I'm enjoying being back in the classroom full time this year, teaching courses on race, class, and gender, social movements, and United States culture. I'm happy to report that my second book was published in April. *The Politics of Virginity: Abstinence in Sex Education*, coauthored with Dr. Alesha Doan, is the culmination of several years of research on abstinence-only sex education curriculum, including in-depth interviews with teenagers. I also continue to work on homelessness research and am consulting with the county to complete an enumeration of the homeless population here in January 2009.

From our Lecturers . . .

Bud Evans

I spent time at the University of Ghana last summer working with professors, technical staff, and administrators to organize a videoconference collaboration for my world food systems class. During winter quarter 2009, teams of Cal Poly and University of

Ghana professors will present 10 joint lectures on various world food systems topics to students at Cal Poly (where we'll meet in a videoconference classroom from 8 to 10 am) and students at the University of Ghana (who will meet with us from a similar videoconference classroom from 4 to 6 pm). Also, the eighth edition of *The Other World: Issues and Politics of the Developing World* is now in publication, including my revised chapter on Political Economy.

Alison Keleher

As some of you know, my dissertation research studied interest group campaigning in congressional elections, so it has been somewhat of a surprise to find myself immersed in work that examines gay politics, Republican party history, and gay Republicans (aka the Log Cabin Republicans) – three topics that I never envisioned working on while in graduate school. Nonetheless, this last year found me giving a paper on the Log Cabin Republicans (and attending their national convention) and another on changing trends in American public opinion about homosexuality. I also was asked to submit a piece on the Republican Party for Congressional Quarterly's Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History, which is forthcoming, and discusses the party's history from 1946 through 1975. In addition to a very interesting research agenda, I have very much enjoyed acting as the Pi Sigma Alpha advisor. As always, I learn much more from my students than I think I can ever teach them. And no matter how interesting our research, or where it takes us, watching our POLS students strive, achieve, and graduate is the best part of job.

*Congratulations to our
Faculty Award Winners*

**Anika Leithner
College of Liberal Arts
Outstanding Teacher Award**

**Jean Williams
Student Life and Leadership
2008 Cal Poly Faculty Woman of the Year**

*Our Heartiest
Congratulations to the
Following Political
Science Student 2008
Award Winners*

Rob Fitzroy
Cal Poly Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Morgan Torell
George and Janice Clucas Scholarship

Lauren Laiolo
College of Liberal Arts
Outstanding Senior Award for
Contributing to the Objectives and Public
Image of the College

Manuel Reynoso
Panetta Institute Congressional Internship in
Washington, DC

Michele Brown; Rob Binning;
Rob Fitzroy; Colleen Sweeney
John H. Lynn Paper Awards

Carina Gaz; Cindy Henning
Model United Nations Awards

Students

Allie Jones

I am currently pursuing a Masters of Public Policy and serve as the grad student representative on the alumni advisory board. I am in my second year of the program and will graduate in June 2009. I also work at Cal Poly for University Advancement as the first scholarship coordinator. This position serves as the initial point of contact for the university regarding establishment of scholarships. I work directly with donors to secure and renew scholarship support for each college. I also work directly with the Financial Aid Office to ensure scholarships are being administered according to donor intentions and in compliance with university policies.

The Masters of Public Policy is a great complement to my nonprofit development and leadership interests. After spending eight plus years working for nonprofit organizations, I have come to realize that there is a broader public policy process at work. The MPP program has met my expectations of helping me to further explore the nonprofit sectors place in public policy.

Model United Nations

As a member of the 2008-2009 Model United Nations team, I can confidently say that my experience thus far has been rewarding. All of us have learned new research techniques, improved our public speaking skills, and have refined our ability to work with students from all over the world looking for solutions to world problems. Even with all of that, these benefits seem minuscule compared to the scale of knowledge we have acquired about the United Nations, its principle organs, and the perspective we represent at conferences. This year, Cal Poly MUN members are planning to attend conferences around the globe; last autumn's conference was in Xi'an, China, and in spring the conference will be in New York. Professor Craig Arceneaux has been working diligently preparing for the winter 2009 conference at UCLA and the spring conference in New York. We are all enthusiastic about representing Cal Poly and our respective states in the global arena of diplomacy.

Submitted by Kayvan Chinichian, Secretary-General of the MUN Club

Mock Trial Club

For the past three years Cal Poly has been sending teams to intercollegiate competitions sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association. This year we are sending three teams—two that were formed through the new Mock Trial class offered by Political Science, and one team formed by students as an extracurricular activity. Some Mock Trial alumni are now in law school, and report that Mock Trial helped them during their first year. This year's teams will be competing in Fresno and Rancho Cucamonga, and, with any luck, beyond! Dr. Matt Moore is the faculty advisor for the Mock Trial Club.

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States. Pi Sigma Alpha is open to any Cal Poly student—regardless of major—who has completed at least one upper-division political science class, and achieved a cumulative political science GPA of 3.0.

Cal Poly's chapter, Omicron Gamma, will hold meetings in conjunction with the Political Science Club this year. The advisor for 2008/2009 is Dr. Anika Leithner.

Undergraduate Law Association

The Undergraduate Law Association is still going strong, with more than 50 members, many of whom are political science majors. During the fall quarter, we had three meetings, and my focus was on the applications process. In the first meeting, I spoke about how to prepare for the LSAT, secure letters of recommendation, and write a personal statement. In the second one, Eileen Scallen, a law professor at the William Mitchell College of Law, explained how law professors grade law school exams. In the third one, Cristina Gapasin, assistant director of admissions from the UC Davis School of Law, spoke about the admissions process and answered questions from the audience. In the winter and the spring, we will have a panel of attorneys who work for Cal Poly discuss what they do for the university. We

will also take our third annual field trip to the UCLA School of Law, sit-in on a first year class, and later have lunch with the professor. The purpose of this trip is to demystify law school and help the students to see that they, too, can be law students someday. *Submitted by Ron Den Otter, ULA Advisor*

POLS Passings

Steven Daniel Conway (POLS 74) passed away October 4, 2006. Mr. Conway was 60 years old.

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